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wild with delight over the plants. These central islands would seem to be a centre also for *Begonias*, as I have already stated, and for the *Convolvuli* which are found near the sea level. They are in great abundance of species, of various colors and sizes of flowers. The natives of the country show a little taste for the beautiful in small patches of flowers near their dwellings, but the flowers are usually marigolds, single balsams and everlastings, with now and then some showy malvaceæ. Rice forms the principal food plant, but in these central islands of light soils, Indian corn, Hungarian grass or something much like it, and Sorghum are much raised. Cotton is also cultivated, of three species, one native, one from China, and the other the one found among the Indians of South America, and probably brought over from there by the Spaniards. Coffee and cocoa are also cultivated since the fall in the price of sugar has made its cultivation unprofitable."

Carex umbellata, Schkuhr.

NOTES ON CAREX. XII.

It often happens that the limits of well known species are determined by herbarium specimens rather than by the plants as they grow. Fragments and imperfect specimens are inexcusable when the plant grows at our doors. Even *Carex umbellata*, well known from the time Muhlenberg began his studies of our sedges at the close of the last century, has not yet been clearly defined. Nor does the present writer assume to make a complete characterization in this note, but rather to designate two common forms of the species. It has never been possible to arrive at definite conclusions from the scrappy materials of herbaria, but this year I have had the privilege of seeing the two forms growing in profusion. Briefly stated, the two forms are these: 1. A very low and compact form with the spikes all closely clustered near the surface of the ground; 2. A looser and taller form with many of the peduncles elongated, and becoming true culms. Muhlenberg collected the former plant and sent it to Willdenow. It was divided with Schkuhr, who named it *Carex umbellata*, figuring it in his Riedgräser. Specimens are now to be seen in Schkuhr's herbarium at Halle, and Willdenow's at Berlin. It is not certain that the latter form has been named, although I propose to use

Dewey's var. *vicina* to designate it, inasmuch as his figure of this variety appears to represent the plant which I mean. I should not doubt the application of Dewey's name did he not make the following apology for its creation, evidently in order that he might forestall any disposition to erect it into specific rank: "As this variety is found growing on the same root with the other [the type], there can be no doubt about it" ! This indicates that Professor Dewey intended to refer to those occasional specimens of true *C. umbellata* which produce one or two true culms. But his figure may be taken to indicate the plant in which the production of true culms is the habit, and by so understanding it the present writer avoids the necessity of making a new name for a well known thing. In truth, the two plants which are here designated are strongly characterized, but it is expected that there are intermediate forms, else they would be separated as species; so that it will be unnecessary to separate plants coming from the same root, either for the purpose of founding a new variety or of assuring the reader that the two plants really belong to the same species.

CAREX UMBELLATA, Schkuhr, Riedgr. Nachtr. 75, t. Www, f. 171, v.s., Hb. Schk.; Willd. Sp. Pl. iv. 290, v.s. Hb. Willd. Boott, Ill. t. 292.

Tufts small and dense (1 to 3 in. across); leaves short and often stiff (2 to 6 in. long); spikes all on separate scapes which do not exceed two inches in length, usually densely aggregated at the surface of the ground, or the staminate scape sometimes elevated an inch or so above the pistillate ones. Dry knolls and banks, New Jersey and Pennsylvania to New York (and New England?), and perhaps farther westward. The spikes are so much hidden in the leafy base of the tuft that the plant is probably not generally detected; hence the geographical limits of the species cannot be given with certainty.

Var. VICINA, Dewey, Sill. Journ. t. D. f. 13 (1826).

Tufts looser and larger; leaves longer (often a foot or more) and laxer, often broader; some pistillate spikes on scapes, but a part or most of them sessile or nearly so near the base of the staminate spike on a true culm which is from 3 to 8 inches high, one or two on each culm. With the species, and evidently further westward and northwestward. Although the two plants sometimes grow near each other here at Ithaca, they can be distinguished at a glance.

I am not aware that *Carex umbellata* or the var. *vicina* extend beyond the Mississippi in the United States. The plant referred to the species in my synopsis (Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts and Sci. xxii. 125) from Oregon, *Henderson* (the collector should have been given as *Howell*) is *C. deflexa* var. *Boottii*, Bailey. Some of the varieties of *C. deflexa* are very near *C. umbellata* var. *vicina*, but they are distinguished, among other things, by the leafy bracts and the more uniformly peduncled spikes.

L. H. BAILEY.

Notes on Two Rhododendrons.

RHODODENDRON CANESCENS (Michx.), (*Azalea canescens*, Michx. Fl. I. p. 150 (1803); Pursh, Fl. I. p. 152 (1814).—In his Synoptical Flora Dr. Gray has merged this old plant of Michaux into *R. nudiflorum*, but it surely has characters enough to enable it to hold a rightful place between that species and *R. calendulaceum*. In fact it is more nearly allied to the latter, from which it differs in its smaller corolla, of a bright rose color, with shorter tube, less ample and spreading limb, and slender, less exserted stamens. The corollas externally are clothed, as well as the peduncles, with short, gland-tipped hairs, not viscid to the touch; calyx-teeth minute, or sometimes one or two of them conspicuous and oval or oblong in shape; leaves roundish-obovate, or narrower and almost elliptical, pale, softly tomentose-pubescent beneath, less so above, or in some cases glabrate, except the margins, mid rib and veins. In favorable situations it attains the height of 10 to 12 feet.

From *R. nudiflorum* it is distinguished in the corolla by its color, peculiar fragrance, shorter tube, narrowed toward the base and beset with short gland-tipped hairs, and more equal divisions of the limb, and by the pale hue of the tomentose-pubescent leaves, and a more erect habit of growth. As in *R. nudiflorum*, the flowers appear both before and with the leaves.

First collected by Michaux "on rivulets in South Carolina," and later by Pursh in the mountains near "Cacopoon (Capon ?)